

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~the~~ sealing of inflatable articles, the apparatus comprising:

a container having an internal space for a sealant;

an extraction unit for being releasably connected to the container;

a gas inlet of the extraction unit for being connected to a gas pressure source and an outlet of the extraction unit for being coupled to the article to be sealed, the gas inlet and the outlet communicating with one another exclusively via the container internal space; and

a standing surface of the extraction unit configured for supporting the unit on a support surface, the standing surface being disposed remote from the container with the container releasably connected to the extraction unit.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the container and extraction unit are of a plastic material.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the container includes a connection section having a bottleneck configuration, and the extraction unit has at least one substantially cylindrical connection stub for receiving the connection section.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the extraction unit includes a connection stub for being releasably connected to the container and having a longitudinal axis thereof, the extraction unit having inlet and outlet ducts each including inner and outer portions thereof with the inner portions extending approximately parallel to the longitudinal axis and the outer portions extending approximately perpendicular to the axis.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the inner portions of the extraction unit ducts include respective free ends disposed in the connection stub for communicating with the container internal space.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the connection stub has a free end and the free ends of the inner portion of the extraction unit ducts do not extend beyond the connection stub free end.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the inner portions of the inlet and outlet ducts extend in coaxial relation to each other.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the container has an opening leading to the internal space and a seal closing the opening, and the free ends of the ducts inner portions have chamfered surfaces for breaking open the container seal.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the extraction unit includes a connection section generally having opposite ends, and a connection stub at one end of the connection section for being releasably connected to the container, and a pedestal portion including the standing surface at the other end of the connection section.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 including:

a filling line adapted to be connected to the outlet at one end of the line and to a valve of the article to be sealed at the other end thereof.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein at least one of the container, extraction unit and filling line includes a vent air passageway and opening therefrom to vent air pressure from the tire therethrough and to atmosphere prior to sealing of the article.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the container has a standing surface configured for supporting the container on a support surface, the container standing surface being disposed remote from the extraction unit with the unit releasably connected to the container.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with the sealant wherein the sealant comprises:

a natural rubber latex and at least one synthetic latex selected from the group consisting of isoprene rubbers, acrylate rubbers and methacrylate rubbers, said composition being free of a cross-linking agent.

14. (Currently Amended) An extraction unit for being releasably connected to a container having sealant in an interior space thereof, the extraction unit comprising:

a gas inlet for being connected to a gas pressure source;

an outlet for being coupled to an article to be sealed;

a connection portion for releasably connecting the unit to the container with the inlet and outlet communicating with one another exclusively via the container internal space; and

a standing surface spaced from the connection portion and configured for supporting the unit on a support surface.

15. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 14 wherein the extraction unit is of a plastic material.

16. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 14 wherein the connection portion comprises at least one substantially cylindrical connection stub.

17. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 16 including inlet and outlet ducts, each including inner and outer portions thereof with the inner portions extending approximately parallel to the longitudinal axis and the outer portions extending approximately perpendicular to the axis.

18. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 17 wherein the inner portions of the extraction unit ducts include respective free ends disposed in the connection stub for communicating with the container internal space.

19. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 18 wherein the connection stub has a free end and the free ends of the inner portion of the extraction unit ducts do not extend beyond the connection stub free end.

20. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 17 wherein the inner portion of the inlet and outlet ducts extend in coaxial relation to each other.

21. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 18 wherein the free ends of the ducts inner portions have a chamfered surface for breaking open a seal of the container.

22. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 14 including a connection section generally having opposite ends, and a connection stub of the connection portion at one end of the connection section for being releasably connected to the container, and a pedestal portion including the standing surface at the other end of the connection section.

23. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 14 in combination with a filling line adapted to be connected to the gas outlet at one end thereof and to a valve of the article to be sealed at the other end thereof.

24. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 23 wherein at least one of the extraction unit and filling line includes a vent air passageway and opening therefrom to vent air pressure from the tire therethrough and to atmosphere prior to sealing of the article.

25. (Original) The extraction unit of claim 14 in combination with the container wherein the container has a standing surface configured for supporting the container on a support surface, the container standing surface being disposed remote from the extraction unit with the unit releasably connected to the container.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 in combination with the sealant wherein the sealant comprises:

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a natural rubber latex and at least one adhesive resin compatible with natural rubber latex, said adhesive resin being selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl ester, polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl pyrrolidone.